

Things to Think About When Choosing a Healthcare Facility

- Does your doctor recommend the facility? Why or why not?
- Does your health insurance cover treatment at this facility? If not, ask your doctor if there are benefits available for out-of-network care.
- Is your hospital accredited by a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the quality and safety of healthcare (e.g., The Joint Commission or DNV-GL Healthcare)?
- Do you know your doctor's or healthcare provider's qualifications? Is he or she licensed and board-certified? Consult the state licensing board for information on licensure and disciplinary actions that may have been taken.
- What infection prevention resources are at your healthcare facility? If you have questions, find out how you can get in touch with someone in infection prevention before you visit the facility.
- Does your healthcare facility have a patient advocate? If so, s/he may be able to provide additional consultation and services before, during, and after your medical treatment.
- If you are planning to have surgery:
 - Does the facility do a lot of the procedures that you will be having? Patients who have surgery at hospitals that do more surgical procedures may have better outcomes.
 - Does the facility have a floor or unit that only does the type of surgery you are having? For example, for hip replacement surgery, does the facility have a floor or unit that is used only for joint replacement surgeries?
 - Does the facility have one or more operating rooms that are used only for your type of surgery?
 - Does the facility follow specific guidelines so that everyone who has your type of surgery receives consistent care?
- The federal government reports other quality information about hospitals, in addition to healthcare associated-infections. Find this information online at: www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has a comprehensive guide available to assist patients in selecting a hospital. Find this at: <http://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10181.pdf>